

CRA has provided for increased loans to distressed communities, expanded homeownership opportunities, and has helped small businesses develop and flourish.

In recent years, two-thirds of all small business loans were made under CRA. It has also provided for a sharp increase in mortgage loans to low and moderate income families.

CRA investments are good investments. Financial institutions recognize the importance of serving their communities. The Community Reinvestment Act is a good, profitable business for banks and the community. I call on my colleagues to support CRA as an important part of financial services reform.

#### CUBAN RAFTER INCIDENT

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, the inscription on the Statue of Liberty refers to our great country as the Mother of Exiles, which requests "give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses \* \* \* of your teeming shore."

However, yesterday, the U.S. Coast Guard in South Florida took actions against Cuban freedom seekers which call into question our U.S. commitment to these principles. Not only was it not in the fine tradition of this agency, but it raises grave concern over the treatment of those seeking asylum from brutal dictatorships, such as the Castro regime in Cuba.

The first symbol of liberty these refugees come into contact with is the U.S. Coast Guard. Is their first impression to be unwarranted acts of aggression which violate their human rights?

The Coast Guard has literally saved the lives of thousands of refugees, and yesterday's acts were not in line with that fine history. I have spoken to the Commandant of the U.S. Coast Guard about this matter, and he has assured me that an immediate investigation of the specific actions is already underway.

I look forward to the briefing that senior officials of the Coast Guard and other agencies will provide us with today to ensure that this will never happen again.

#### AMERICAN WORKERS ARE GETTING PINK SLIPS

(Mr. TRAFICANT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, yesterday General Motors closed its plant in Flint, Michigan. Another 3,600 American manufacturing jobs gone.

Meanwhile, General Motors plants all over the world remain open. Think about it. While foreign workers are building American cars, American workers are getting pink slips. Beam me up.

I do not blame General Motors. I blame our trade policy. Our trade policies are killing jobs and killing investment.

The question I have today: If our trade policy is so good, why does Japan not do it? Why does China not do it? My colleagues, think about that.

I yield back what manufacturing jobs we have left in America.

#### REPUBLICANS WANT TO GIVE EXTRA MONEY COLLECTED BY GOVERNMENT BACK TO TAXPAYERS

(Mr. ROGAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ROGAN. Mr. Speaker, under a Republican Congress, our economy is projecting huge budget surpluses over the next 10 years. And I do not mean liberal Democrat style surpluses. I mean real surpluses that do not count and include the Social Security Trust Fund.

The debate has begun already as to what to do with the extra money now being collected by the Government. The Republicans want to give it back to the people who earned it in the first place—the taxpayers. But the liberals do not see it that way. They want to spend it. As I speak, they are coming up with huge new Washington programs even before the surplus has actually come in.

So that is our choice. Congress can spend it, or we can give it back in form of tax relief to the families that earned it. Republicans want the politicians in Washington to keep their hands off working families' money. This is a battle we will be proud to wage as we go forward in the next few weeks.

#### PRESCRIPTION DRUGS FOR SENIORS

(Mr. GREEN of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am proud this morning to talk about one of those programs that the President announced yesterday that we need to do, and we should have done it many years ago.

Studies have shown across this country in congressional districts prescription drugs on the average cost twice as much for senior citizens as they do for other most favored customers. It affects people like in my district 85-year-old constituent who relies on Social Security as her primary source of income and she has medical conditions that require her to spend \$260 a month on prescription medication. She has already sold her car, sold her furniture to pay for these prescription drugs; and yet she cannot continue to afford it for \$3,000 a year.

The President yesterday announced a program that will not help as much as

maybe I would like to, but it goes further than what we have today. With the budget as good as it is, maybe we ought to pay something back to those senior citizens who have built this country into what it is and not make them spend \$3,000 a year of their Social Security money for prescription medication.

In her case, it would actually almost cut her prescription cost in half, the President's program would do. And so, that is what we need to do.

Sure, I would like to have tax cuts. But let us take care of those folks who have built this country and made it what it is today.

#### REPUBLICANS WANT TO KNOW WHAT FICA MAN IS DOING WITH ALL THE MONEY

(Mrs. KELLY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. KELLY. Mr. Speaker, what does the FICA man do with the FICA taxes taken out of a worker's paycheck?

Most workers assume, as I used to, that the taxes collected from the worker's paycheck for Social Security and Medicare were actually spent on Social Security and Medicare. Well, it turns out that is not exactly the case.

The FICA man has been engaging in some very funny business with our seniors' Social Security and Medicare money, and more and more seniors are learning the harsh truth about the way our Government is running the Social Security Trust Fund.

The FICA man collects the money and uses it to fund all kinds of things, things which have nothing to do with Social Security or Medicare. Republicans want to know what the FICA man is doing with all that money. We want to put an end to the practice of raiding the Social Security Trust Fund anytime Washington feels like it.

"But wait," my Democrat colleagues will say, "Social Security was designed to operate like that."

Exactly. And that is what we want to change.

#### FEDERAL RESERVE DECIDING HOW HIGH, HOW MUCH, HOW OFTEN TO RAISE INTEREST RATES

(Mr. DEFAZIO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, at this very moment, the Federal Reserve is ensconced in their marble palace downtown meeting in secret, eating a catered breakfast off of fine china, all paid for by the taxpayer.

They are deciding how high, how much, how often to raise interest rates to combat inflation that does not exist.

They are about to raise the rates on credit cards for tens of millions of Americans, auto loans for tens of millions of Americans, mortgages for tens of millions of Americans?